

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

St John's – Focused on Christ, united in faith, serving our community
and a place of worship where all are welcome

Church Services in October

5th October:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am All-Age Harvest (CW)
6.30pm Evensong (BCP)

12th October:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)

19th October:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)
4.00pm Light up a Life

26th October:

9.00am Matins (BCP)
10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

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Contact Us

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Congratulations

Our heartiest congratulations go out to baby Beatrix Morris-Coker (of Brookside), and to her parents Alex and Lucy, following her christening at St John's on Sunday 7th September.

In Memory

The funeral of Jenny Rowland was held at the Vale Royal Crematorium on **Mon 1st September**. Our thoughts and sympathy are with husband, Chris, and his family.

View from the Vicarage

Every Autumn, churches and communities across the country gather to celebrate Harvest - and St John's is no exception, with our own all age Harvest service on 5th October. Harvest is a time of thanksgiving for the work of farmers, for the food they grow and for God's gracious provision. Traditionally, people would bring baskets filled with fruit, vegetables, and bread to churches as a visible sign of gratitude to God, and many communities

(including ours!) still donate food to foodbanks and other charities during this season. Harvest reminds us that behind every meal lies God's generous gifts: the rain, the sun, the soil, and the unseen growth that transforms tiny seeds into abundant crops.

Harvest also points us to a deeper truth - just as God produces a physical harvest in the fields, he also wants to produce a spiritual harvest in our lives. In Galatians 5:22-23, the apostle Paul describes this as the "fruit" of the Holy Spirit, including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are not virtues we can simply add to our character like items on a shopping list. They require God's Spirit to be at work within us, making us more like Jesus. And we need to ask God to produce this harvest within us. We need to invite the Holy Spirit to make us more like the kind of people we aspire to be. If do we pray for this spiritual fruit and begin to follow Christ, God promises to cultivate these character traits within us.

Harvest Festival also reminds us that fruit is meant to be shared. Just as foodbank donations are brought to bless others, so the fruit of the Spirit are for the good of the world around us. When Christians show love to the lonely, patience to the difficult, or kindness to the hurting, people catch a glimpse of Jesus and experience a taste of God's love.

So this year, as we give thanks for all our food, why not ask God to also produce a harvest within you? Because the Lord of the harvest longs to make all of us more fruitful.

God bless
Phil Weston



News

Morning Prayer

A short service of Morning Prayer takes place in church every Wednesday morning at 9am. The doors will be open for everyone who would like to attend.

Wednesday
Morning Prayer.
A chance to
start your day
with God.

Light up a Life

Sunday, 19th October at 4pm

Remember ... Honour ... Celebrate

You are invited to join us for a special service at which we will commemorate our loved ones who have died as we light candles in their memory.

*Beautiful memories silently kept
of those whom we've loved
and will never forget.*

Back to the Future

An evening of music from across the centuries with David Bird and friends.

St John's Church
Friday, 17th October
at 7.30pm

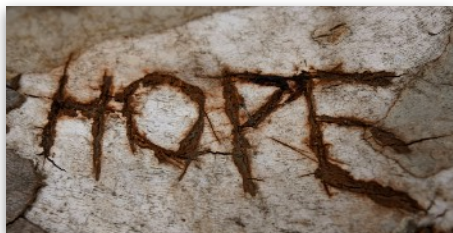
Tickets £10 (inc. Refreshments)
Available from the Community Shop
or from Yvonne Downen (01829 751174)

All proceeds to the church funds

David is our church organist but he also plays Jazz and music from the Baroque period with friends. We are looking forward to a interesting and varied evening of music.

Pause for Thought

by Alan Downen



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

The Christian concept of hope offers a distinct approach to resilience that differs from simple positive thinking. Rather than being based on circumstances or personal outlook, Christian hope is rooted in the belief that life has an underlying purpose and direction, even when things go wrong.

This perspective significantly impacts our mental health and wellbeing. When people believe their experiences, both good and difficult, fit into a larger meaningful narrative, they tend to cope better with stress and trauma, and what makes this approach particularly valuable is its realism about suffering. Instead of denying pain or pretending everything will work out perfectly, Christian hope acknowledges that bad things happen but maintains that they don't represent the final word. This balanced view helps people process grief and disappointment without falling into despair or toxic positivity. The communal aspect of hope also matters for wellbeing because it acknowledges that people aren't expected to handle everything alone.

Additionally, Christian hope addresses guilt and shame constructively. The emphasis on forgiveness and fresh starts allows people to move forward from mistakes rather than being trapped by them. This promotes psychological healing and provides the confidence to make positive changes.

For many people today, this ancient Godly framework provides tools needed for navigating uncertainty and finding meaning in both struggle and joy, and it offers a sense of stability that doesn't depend on worldly circumstances.



Our next Messy Church will be held in church on **Sunday, 9th November at 4pm**. At that event, there will be food, singing, Bible stories, and other fun activities.



Open to children of all ages accompanied by an adult.



Why not come along and join in?



St John's Café

Thursday 23rd October, 9-11am

We are trialling a new time for our Café, so why not pop in for a free morning coffee or cuppa, plus cake! Parents are especially welcome to drop in straight after school drop-off, and there is a creche area and changing facilities for pre-schoolers.

Opening Hours
Monday - Saturday
10am - 5pm
Late night Thursday
until 8pm.

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